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TO THE HONORABLE THE KNIGHTS CITIZENS and Burgeſſes in the Commons Houſe of *Parliament* Aſſembled.

The humble Remonſtrance and Petition, &c.

SHEVVETH,

THat when with griefe of heart wee remember the innumerable grievances ſuffered by us and the whole Kingdome for many yeares before this Parliament, in matters that concern'd our Religion, the libetie of our perſons, and freedome of our Eſtates: And call minde our earneſt deſires of attaining a through repation by the wiſdome and juſtice of Parliament, in the emplary puniſhment of thoſe who had been authors d inſtruments to ſubvert the power and purity of our ligion, and the auncient juſt conſtitution of Govern-nt. Our ſpirits are confounded within us to conſider after (by the wiſdome, care, and reſolurion of this liament) we are juſtly freed from thoſe Incendiaries

the Bishops and many others the known promoters of Arbitrary Government. And full Remonstrances made of the Injuries done by Papists and others of the Malignant party, and their wicked intentions, discovered to extirpate the Protestant party in the three Kingdomes: After the Protestation taken with great solemnity by the people of the Land. And after all your many and unwearied labours (which with all thankfulnes we acknowledge) to reduce us from misery and fears, and to establish and unite us with the other Kingdomes upon the lasting foundation of truth and peace. By which your proceedings the well-affected party of the Kingdome were justly invited to adhere unto you: and to reveale and lay out themselves as well by bearing of Armes as large Contributions for the advance and maintenance of this most just and necessary warre, with a full resolution to stand or fall with you. And your being possessed of the Kingdomes strength as well by Sea as Land, and of the affections of the people still manifested by their readines from all Quarters to rise and appeare in considerable bodies for the carrying on of this just and undoubted Cause. Which with the many deliverances from plotts and treasons, and the victories already obtained upon all resolved attempts, afforded great assurance of a blessed and successefull issue. That notwithstanding all these and many more your constant endeavours in the midst of high oppositions, There should still remaine before us as bitter fruits of the inveterate malice of our restles enemies (though occasioned partly by the insensibility of many amongst our selves both in Citie and Kingdom) The miserable sufferings of our brethren in *Ireland*, and in humane conjectures the almost irrecoverable estate of that Kingdome. The opportunities gained here by the Popish

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and Malignant party (of which the Army raiſed againſt the Parliament conſiſts) as well to invite, convey hither, and entertain the *Iriſh* Rebells, as to gather and increaſe themſelves into formidable forces. The indulgent uſage and eſcapes of many diſcovered and accuſed Traytours, which advanceth the Kings deſigne abroad, and animates the evill party here at home : ſome of them being taken in actuall warre againſt the Parliament (a crime voted to be treaſon, and they to be proceeded againſt as Traytors) whileſt divers worthy Members of this honourable Houſe, and many others well-affected to the Parliament taken priſoners by the Kings Forces, have been uſed in a moſt inhumane manner. The frequent printing and diſperſing of the Kings Declarations, and many ſcandalous bookes, deſerving exemplary puniſhment; By which and by the Prelaticall and ſcandalous Clergie, have been ſowed the ſeeds of ſedition and inſurrection, inciting to the violating of Magiſtrates and others the moſt active and well-affected of this Citie. The uſuall miſconſtruing and perverting that ſuppoſition of Law, *That Kings can doe no wrong*, which being never intended (as wee conceive) of his perſonall commands and actions, is notwithſtanding made uſe of to maintaine them, and thereby in a myſterious manner to deceive the people. All which with their probable conſequences, wee have ſo ſeriouſly conſidered, That as well from the conſideration thereof, as to the end the beſt men (your chiefeſt friends) may be eſtabliſhed in the truth, and the unreſolved our brethren and neighbours (who out of miſguided conſciences for want of a full and poſitive ſatisfaction and determination of the principles of our Government chiefly ſtagger, and to our ſoules griefe remaine unſatisfyed through the contrarietie of the Kings

Li. Decla. Par. 576.

and your Commands and Declarations) may be informed and we hope reclaimed. Wee crave leave humbly to recollect and Remonstrate what are our apprehensions, grounded as well upon right reason as your owne Declarations being here collected, which are there dispers't, concerning the true forme and state of our *English* Government, not doubting but you will continue that spirit and courage which justly moved you to declare and publish those convincing truthes and resolutions: Which apprehensions of ours are.

Petition of Lords and Commons, 14. *Dec.* 1641.

1. That the safety of the people is the Supreme Law; and is the foundation and end of all just Government, even of Parliaments themselves, which alone are in this Kingdome ordained to be Judges of and providers for the safety of the Common-wealth: being limited by no Customes, no Presidents, nor Statutes made by former Parliaments, but may justly doe whatsoever is good in their understandings for the safety and freedome of the people.

Lib. Decl. 265.

Lib. Decl. 705. & 697. 280. 690.

2. That originally the Supreme power being in the whole people, Parliaments were by them constituted to manage the same for the preservation and well-being of the Common-wealth: So as properly in the Parliaments of *England* acting for the same doth the Supreme power reside; from whose judgements there is no appeale, being presumed ever to intend the proper interest of the Common-wealth, that is, the safety and freedome thereof, it being the highest of treasons through feare or favour to neglect or betray the same.

Lib. Decl. 714.

3. That all just Magistracy in this Kingdome is a power

power created by the Kingdom and Parliaments for the execution of Laws, or to governe the people in freedome and safety according to the Laws. And is a matter of trust onely for the good of the people, and to be regulated by the Supreame power. It being most agreeable to reason that those who by the consent of all are intrusted with the making of Laws, should direct those that are to put the same in execution.

4. That all Magistrates and Officers of the Kingdome are accomptable to the Parliament, for that otherwise the safety and freedome of the people would not be sufficiently provided for. *Lib. Decl.* 701, 702, 703.

5. That the King (though the chief Magistrate or Officer of the Kingdome) doth not personally judge in any Court, nor can of right interpose his personall command or judgement against the proceedings thereof. *Lib. Decl.* 207. 14 *Dec.* 1641. Petit. of Lords & Commons.

6. That the calling of Parliaments never was (of right) arbitrary at the Kings will, but a trust annext to his Office: And of duty to be called every yeare according to Statutes made in the time of *Edward* the third, which were declarative of the Common Law. *Lib. Decl.* 701, 702. 4. *Ed.* 3. 14. 36. *Ed.* 3. 10.

7. That the usage of passing Bills of right and justice in Parliament by the King, is but matter of forme annext to his Office and not left to his will: For otherwise the safety and freedome of the people should depend upon his will, and such proceedings of Parliament be made voyd by his assumed negative voyce. *Lib. Decl.* 706. 715. *Lib. Decl.* 714. 703. 704.

8. That the dissolving of Parliaments is also a matter of *Lib. Decl.* 701. 702,

of forme belonging to the Kings Office, and not left arbitrary to be dissolved at his pleasure without consent of both Houses: For then all the affaires of Parliament would necessarily depend upon his sole will, to proceed or conclude, not according to the Supreme Law (the safety of the people) but the pleasure of the King. The Parliament being never of right heretofore nor hereafter to be dissolved untill themselves signifie that the generall affaires of the Kingdome are fully setled.

Lib. Decl. 703. 704.

Lib. Decl. 267. 9. That to Parliaments for the Kingdomes safety doe justly appertaine the strength of the Kingdome, the disposing of our persons, propriety of our estates, and the transacting of the great affaires of peace and warre, wherein the Kingdome is concerned, which for any other person or Councell to assume or imploy otherwise then in the Kingdoms right, and for it's safety, is unjust, arbitrary, and tyrannicall.

Lib. Decl 208. Master *Prinns* second part published by Authoritie of Parliament. 10. That the Kings personall and voluntary absence from Parliament, whereby his Office therein is not discharged, neither is nor of right can be any hindrance to the making of laws or other proceedings of Parliament for the good and safety of the Kingdome.

All which wee humbly conceiving to be undoubted fundamentalls of our Government, It is our hearty desire and prayer, That before it be too late the judgement of the Kingdome may be fully setled in the right understanding of the truth and equitie thereof, and no longer scruple in their obedience to the Supreme power, when the Kings Commands are contrary. That it may be examined wherein the safety and interest of the Common-

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wealth have ſuffered prejudice, either by the impunitie of Delinquents, the violation of our Lawes, or perverting the Conſtitutions of our Government, that the authors thereof be made known and ſeverely puniſhed, and divine Juſtice which cryes for vengeance fully ſatisfied. That the juſtnes of the preſent warre, which (for the glory of God, the Government of Chriſt, the regaining and maintenance of our liberties, and the Kingdomes defence againſt utter deſolation) is undertaken by you, may be more fully yet made knowne to the world, and that neither you nor we have done the King any wrong. That the priviledges of this higheſt Court may be kept inviolable, and where that Supreme power hath been in any wiſe ſuſpended or ecclipſed, ſuch a redreſſe may be made as becomes the greatneſſe thereof. That no members of Parliament who have been or ſhall appeare in this unnaturall warre againſt you be readmitted, and ſpeciall care taken that ſuch onely be continued and placed in the publique ſervices and imployments of Parliament and Kingdome, as have given full teſtimony of their zeale, judgement, and fidelity. And though our deſires are, That their portion may be to periſh in inteſtine warres that delight in them, yet they likewiſe are, That the Kings returne to his Kingly office and the Parliament in a well ſetled peace (which wee daily pray for) may never be purchaſed by ſuch conditions as thereby either to leave the truth and life of our Religion and Laws unſecured, or give opportunitie to involve us and our poſteritie in perpetuall thraldome. That the Nationall Covevenant already concluded may be with ſuch ſpeed and care perſonally propoſed, that thereby the well-affected of the Kingdome being both in hearts and hands united; our friends from foes may be diſtinguiſhed, and wee thereby

thereby enabled to preſerve and defend our ſelves, both in peace and warre. That you would alſo conſider that the eyes of Chriſtendom are upon *Englands* Parliament, and that publique and private prayer and dayes of Faſting in this and many forraigne Nations are ſet apart and powred forth to Heaven, as for your perſons ſo to produce your conceptions and beginnings of a perfect reformation unto a glorious birth. For your faithfull indeavours wherein, as you have ingaged your ſelves (though you ſhould periſh in the worke;) ſo be pleaſed ſtill to conclude, that whileſt with undaunted Reſolutions you perſiſt therein, you ſhall not finde in us, (nor wee hope) in the reſt of the Kingdome any defection in the further expoſing of our lives and livelihoods for the advancing and crowning of ſo good a cauſe. For our love and zeale to which onely wee have in all humility and faithfulnes preſented theſe our apprehenſions and deſires, ſubmitting the ſame to your grave Wiſdoms.

And ſhall ever pray, &c.

FINIS.